

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 197839

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 EB-05 SS-07 SSO-00 CCO-00 TRSE-00

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DRAFTED BY:COMM/BEWT:JTREICHEL

APPROVED BY:EB/OCA/REPCRCJORGENSEN

COMM/BEWT:WGLASSFORD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197839

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FOL TEL SENT ACTION STATE USDOC WASHDC, TRSY WASHDC, INFO
MOSCOW, VIENNA WARSAW FROM BUDAPEST 01 OCT 73 REPEATED TO YOU

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, ETRD, HU

SUBJECT: MEETING OF MR. JACKSON, OFFICE OF US SPECIAL TRADE

REPRESENTATIVE AND CHIEF OF
MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS SECTION, JANOS NYERGES

1. IN MEETING BETWEEN JOHN JACKSON, GENERAL COUNSEL OF
OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, AND NYERGES,
CHIEF OF MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
SECTION, INTERESTING INSIGHTS WERE GAINED INTO HUNGARIAN
POSITION ON NEGOTIATION OF MFN AND BUSINESS FACILITATION
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QUESTION.

2. NYERGES INDICATED THAT GOH DESIRES TO REACH REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION ON ISSUES STILL SEPARATING US, AND IN PARTICULAR MFN. HE SAID THAT HUNGARY TAKES GATT OBLIGATIONS VERY SERIOUSLY AND WISHES TO BE VERY CAREFUL THAT WHEN MFN GRANTED IT WILL BE EXTENDED ON SUCH TERMS THAT IT WILL NOT ENDANGER AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER TRADING PARTNERS (PARTICULARLY EEC) WITHIN GATT CONTEXT. FOR GOH TO GRANT US SPECIAL CONCESSIONS COULD VIOLATE GATT MFN AND CAUSE EEC COUNTRIES AND OTHER GATT MEMBERS TO COMPLAIN THAT HUNGARY VIOLATED TERMS OF ITS MEMBERSHIP. FOR THIS REASON GOH WOULD PREFER TO HAVE MFN EXTENDED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF GATT ALTHOUGH BILATERAL AGREEMENT WHICH DID NOT CONFLICT WITH CONDITIONS OF HUNGARY'S GATT MEMBERSHIP WOULD ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE.

3. ON QUESTION OF BUSINESS FACILITATION, NYERGES SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH SOLUTION ACCCEPTABLE TO US PROVIDED CARE TAKEN TO SEPARATE FACILITATION ISSUE FROM GATT CONTEXT. THIS SEPARATION NECESSARY TO AVOID DEMANDS FOR EQUAL TREATMENT BY OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS WEST GERMANY. IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL, SAID NYERGES, GRANTING OF PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH OFFICES FOR A HANDFUL OF AMERICAN COMPANIES WILL RESULT IN 200 GERMAN FIRMS INSISTING ON EQUAL TREATMENT THE FOLLOWING DAY, ADDING THAT SUCH AN INVASION WOULD NOT BE IN THE US INTEREST EITHER.

4. COMMENT: NYERGES' REMARKS TO MEMBER OF SECRETARY DENT PARTY, COMING ON HEELS OF MINISTER BIRO'S ASSERTION TO SECRETARY DENT GOH NOW INSISTED ON NEGOTIATING MFN THROUGH GATT, WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT GOH POSITION ON QUESTION MAY BE SOMEWHAT SOFTER ON ISSUE THAN BIRO SUGGESTED. PEDERSEN UNQTE PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE197839
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COMM/BEWT:JTREICHEL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS JORGENSON
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731050/aaaabklx.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING OF MR. JACKSON, OFFICE OF US SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND CHIEF OF
TAGS: OVIP, ETRD, HU
To: BONN BELGRADE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005